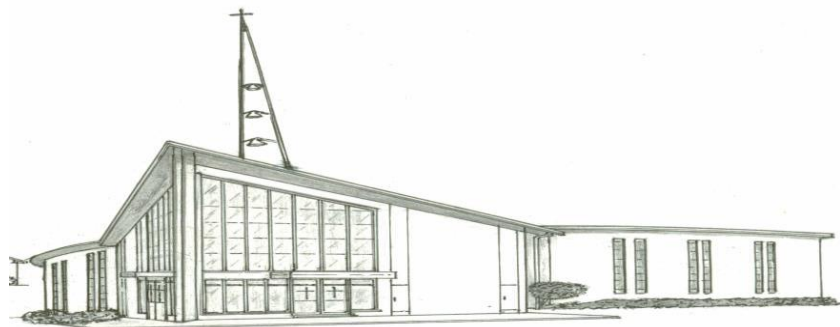


**Church of Saint Philip Neri
Pennsburg, PA 18073
Jan. 31, 2016**



Rev. Robert A. Roncase, Pastor
Rev. Raymond W. Smart, retired; resident
Deacon Michael J. Franks
Deacon Mark J. Meinzer, Business Manager
Rev. Edmond J. Speitel, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. John J. Scarcia, Retired Pastor
Shirley Misiak, Office Manager
Catherine E. Faust, Director of Music
Wendy Benner, Coordinator of PREP/Religious ED
Tom Dewees, Director Catholic Family Life Center
Diane Cunningham, Adm. Assistant CFLC
Anita Fuhs, Youth Minister
Sister Patricia Kelly, M.S.B.T., Parish Outreach

Parish Phone Numbers:

Rectory	215.679.9275
Youth Ministry	267.733.2572
Religious Education/PREP	215.679.7839
Catholic Family Life Center	215.679.2237
Parish Hall	215.679.8116
Parish Outreach	215.679.2282
Neri Center	215.679.6490

Fax Numbers:

Rectory	215.679.0386
Religious Education/PREP	215.679.8370
Catholic Family Life Center	215.679.8370

Church & Rectory Address:

1325 Kliner Rd; Pennsburg 18073

Hours: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Email Address: smisiak@spnparish.org
Website Address: www.spnparish.org

Religious Education Office address & hours:

26 E. Sixth Street, East Greenville, PA 18041
Monday & Friday: Offices are closed
Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Wednesday: 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Email address: spnprep@comcast.net

Neri Center Address

575 Main Street, East Greenville, PA 18041

Catholic Family Life Center Address

26 E. Sixth Street, East Greenville, PA 18041
Email address: tdewees@spncflc.org
Website Address: www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com

Youth Ministry Office hours: (East Greenville)

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Wednesday: 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Email address: spnym@comcast.net

ROSARY: Prayed in the Chapel

Saturday after the 9:00 AM Mass
Monday at 1:00 PM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

1st Friday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the Chapel,
followed by Benediction.

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

For a floral arrangement to be placed at the altar,
please call the rectory.

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday – Vigil Mass – 5:00 PM
Sunday – 7:30, 9:30, 11:00 AM
Holy Day Masses as announced

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE - St. Anne Chapel

The Chapel is open Monday thru Saturday until
7:00 PM for your visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Daily Mass is celebrated in the
Chapel attached to the rectory:

Monday - 5:00 PM
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 8:00 AM
Saturday - 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays: 4:00 – 4:45 PM *or*:
at the Rectory BY APPOINTMENT anytime.

BAPTISMS: Please call the Rectory to schedule
2nd Sunday Baptisms are held **at** the 11 AM Mass
3rd Sunday Baptisms are held at 12:30 PM

SPONSORS: Sponsors for Baptism and Confirmation
need to be at least 16 years of age, to be confirmed,
attend Mass weekly, and if married, be in a valid
marriage.

PRE-JORDAN CLASSES

1st Monday of every month at 7:00 PM in the
Rectory meeting room.

MARRIAGES

Arrangements should be made at least SIX
MONTHS before the date of the wedding.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to your new home!
Please stop by or call the rectory between 9:00 am -
4:00 pm to fill out a registration card.

SHUT-INS

Please call the Parish Outreach Office.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the Rectory.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are the Catholic Parish Community of St. Philip Neri, answering Christ's call to discipleship through Word, Sacrament and Service. We proclaim God's hope and love to all.

Serving at Mass Extraordinary Ministers

5:00 pm - Courtney Highleyman
Locke Highleyman
Priest
Deacon
Janet Kendra
Alice Swift

7:30 am - Maureen Moser
Paul Moser
Priest
Deacon
Jim Michels
Chuck Rodgers
Keith Greczek
Stephanie Greczek
Jo Ellen Carr
Ray Carr
Christine Adelsberger
Steve Adelsberger

9:30 am - Andrew Souder
Mary Souder
Priest
Deacon
Alicia Tryon
Edmond Tryon

11:00 am - Lisa Edleman
Mike Edleman
Priest
Deacon
Madeleine Gehringer
Sharon Shaak

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 31, 2016

Monday, February 1

5:00 pm - Paul & Vera Fronheiser,
(John & Betty Fronheiser)

Tuesday, February 2, The Presentation of the Lord

8:00 am - Helen Pownall, (Souder family)

Wednesday, February 3, Saint Blaise, Saint Ansgar

8:00 am - Susan Noll, (Souder family)

Thursday, February 4

8:00 am - Bill Cody, (The Family)

First Friday, February 5, Saint Agatha

9:00 am - Robert A. Roncase Sr. (Fr. Roncase)

Feb. 7 Lectors

Larry Concio
Bob Ellis

J. Gilmore
T. Gilmore

Matt Horvath
Judy Horvath

Luke Verna

Saturday, February 6, Saint Paul Miki

9:00 am - Karl Heebner, (Ken & Jeanette Miller)

5:00 pm - Bauer & Mallon families, (Tony Bauer)

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 7, 2016

7:30 am - For the living and deceased members
of the Parish.

9:30 am - Betty Mikanowicz,
(Tom & Cindy Dallas)

11:00 am - Dr. Guillermo & Mrs. Amparo Gonzalez
(Gloria Martell)

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

The roses placed at the Blessed Mother and Sacred Heart Altars are in memory of **Barbara Fillman** on her Third Anniversary; requested by Don and Gail; Donna and Greg.

WE INVITE YOUR PRAYERS

For the sick, those in hospitals, nursing homes, also for their caregivers; and all those we hold close in our hearts.

Please pray in particular for **Gene Falasco, Michelle Fillman and Dawn Marie Rush.**

For those who have died, and in particular for **Elizabeth Brinckman, Don Lammers** (husband of Marge Lammers) & **Arlene Leidy** (mother of Bob Leidy), grant them eternal rest and peace.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

This week at a glance

Sunday - January 31

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 am Mass
Frontier Girls Camping weekend (am dismissal)
Little Church 9:30 am Parish Hall
Men's Basketball 8:00 pm Parish Hall

Monday - February 1

Holy Rosary Mass 1:00 pm Chapel
Pre-Jordan Baptismal Class 7:00 pm Rectory
SPN Quilting 1:30 pm Parish Hall

Tuesday - February 2

Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Parish Hall
PREP First Penance 7:00 pm Church

Wednesday - February 3

PREP/Religious Education 6:30 pm SPN CFLC

Thursday - February 4

Bible Study 7:00 pm Neri Center
Men's Basketball 8:00 pm Parish Hall
RCIA 7:00 pm Rectory

Friday – February 5

Bible Study 10:00 am Neri Center
First Friday Mass 9:00 am Church
SPN Quilting 1:00 pm Parish Hall

Saturday - February 6

Charismatic Prayer Group 10:00 am Chapel
Parish Hall NOT available

Sunday - February 7

Bingo 1:00 pm Parish Hall
Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 am Mass
Little Church 9:30 am Parish Hall
Men's Basketball 8:00 pm Parish Hall
Youth Ministry 5:30 pm Parish Hall

Upcoming Meetings

Holy Rosary Hour - Monday, February 8 - 1:00 pm - Chapel
Prayer Shawl Ministry - Monday, February 8 - 7:00 pm - Neri Center
SPN Quilting - Monday, February 8 - 1:30 pm - Parish Hall
Boy Scouts - Tuesday, February 9 - 7:00 pm - Parish Hall
Car Show Committee Meeting - Tuesday, February 9 - 7:00 pm - Rectory Meeting Room
Ash Wednesday - February 10 - Masses in Church: 7:30 am; 9:30 am & 7:00 pm.
PREP/Religious Education - Wednesday, February 10 - Ash Wednesday - Mandatory attendance to Mass at Church; attendance will be taken.
Bible Study - Thursday, February 11 - 7:00 pm - Neri Center
Men's Basketball - Thursday, February 11 - 8:00 pm - Parish Hall
Pennsburg Nursing Home Mass - Thursday, February 11 - 2:15 pm
NO RCIA - Thursday, February 11
Bible Study - Friday, February 12 - 9:00 am - Neri Center
Frontier Girls - Friday, February 12 - 6:30 pm - Parish Hall
SPN Quilting - Friday, February 12 - 1:00 pm - Parish Hall
Saturday, February 13 - Breakfast setup - 7:00 am - Parish Hall
Children's Liturgy of the Word - Sunday, February 14 - at 9:30 am Mass
Little Church - Sunday, February 14 - 9:30 am - Parish Hall Meeting Rooms
Men's Basketball - Sunday, February 14 - 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Parish Hall
Parish Breakfast - Sunday, February 14 - 7:00 am - 12:30 pm in Parish Hall

FIRST FRIDAY

Friday, February 5th is First Friday. Mass is in Church at 9:00 AM. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Chapel from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM followed by Benediction. Please commit to spend some time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

From the desk of Sister Patricia Kelly, M.S.B.T.

In a recent column by Tony Magliano called "Making a Difference", he wrote about Pope Francis speaking truth to power. Excerpts from that column are:

As the first Pope in history to address a Joint Session of Congress, Pope Francis, defending the human right of masses of oppressed and poor people to immigrate said: "We must not be taken aback by their number, but rather, view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their situation.

"We need to avoid a common temptation nowadays: to discard whatever proves troublesome. Let us remember the Golden Rule: "Do onto others as you would have them do unto you. (Mt. 7:12)

Pope Francis explained, "In a word, if we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportunities, let us give opportunities. The Holy Father said: "The Golden Rule also reminds us of our own responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development.

"This conviction has led me, from the beginning of my ministry, to advocate at different levels for the global abolition of the death penalty."

"The fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly and on many fronts, especially in its causes."

Referring to his encyclical on the environment, and humanity's integral link to it, Pope Francis said, "In Laudato Si (Praise to you, I call for a courageous and responsive effort to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity."

With the U.S. leading the world in the sale of weapons, Pope Francis asked its leaders and the rest of us: "Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering? Sadly, the answer is "Simply money: money that is drenched in blood, often, innocent blood. If the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade."

NEXT STOP UNITED NATIONS (Sister Patricia)

The following day, speaking before the U.N. General Assembly, Pope Francis said: "Government Leaders must do everything possible to ensure that all can have the minimum spiritual and material means needed to live in dignity, and to create and support a family, which is the primary cell of any social development. In practical terms, this absolute minimum has three names: lodging, labor, and land; and one spiritual name: spiritual freedom - which includes religious freedom, the right to education and other civil rights." Pope Francis further explained, "These pillars of integral human development have a common foundation, which is the right to life." He said "war is the negation of all rights and a dramatic assault on the environment. If we want true human development for all, we must work tirelessly to avoid war," in part, this means strongly opposing the constant tendency to the proliferation of arms, especially weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear weapons."

In a meeting with homeless men and women at St. Patrick's Parish in Washington DC, speaking truth to those with no worldly power, Pope Francis said: "We can find no social or moral justification, whatsoever, for lack of housing. There are many unjust situations, but we know that God is suffering with us, experiencing them at our side. He does not abandon us." In the face of so much injustice that Pope Francis is calling us to correct, it is reassuring to know that the God of justice, peace and love is at our side, and will never abandon us. (Tony Magliano is an internationally syndicated social justice and peace columnist).

I leave you in the warmth of the Trinity.

PARISH NEWS

St. Philip Neri Parish Council Members at large welcomes any questions or comments you may have.

Names/email addresses:

Tony Bauer	ajbauer337@gmail.com
Matthew Fuhs	matthew.fuhs@comcast.net
Dave Klaunder	stickman@enter.net
Marlene Leidy	marleneleidy@comcast.net
Ed Tryon	greeneng2001@yahoo.com
Theresa Walker	cheg1978@comcast.net

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS - 2015

Any parishioner requesting a copy of their contribution statement for 2015, is asked to call the rectory office between 10am-4:30 pm or email to smisiak@spnparish.org. Statements are mailed upon request only.

ONLINE GIVING

Go green with St. Philip Neri Church by signing up for **Online Giving**. Online giving is a secure and personalized way to give to the parish. It also can stand on its own as a means of a donation or can be used in conjunction with your offering envelopes. You have the option to keep receiving your regular offering envelope packets if you wish. (www.spnparish.org)

Give a St. Philip Neri Building Memorial

For a donation of \$35 or more, there is a beautiful Folder recording the gift and donor to be presented to the family.

In memory of **Laura Lear Harrison**; requested by: John, Barbara Lear and daughters.

In memory of **Don Lammers**; requested by: Don and Gail Fillman, Felicia Fulton and family; Pat Hopfer, Sharon Schnaars, Lynda Swartz.

In memory of **Stella Roney**; requested by: Donald & Bonnie Ritter, Richard and Marilyn Husted, David & Donna Korch, Mary Scutella.

PARISH OUTREACH

Friendly Visitor Annual Report

Thirteen active Friendly Visitors have answered their Baptismal Call by visiting their fellow parishioners in their homes or the local Nursing Home throughout the year on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Friendly Visitors provide emotional support and true friendship. In 2015, Friendly Visitors made 248 visits and provided 281 hours of companionship.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a Friendly Visitor, call LaRue Emmell at 215.679.3086 or email to: lemmell2@comcast.net.

H.O.P.E.

The H.O.P.E. Ministers have provided services for many in our Parish Community in the past year. They responded to their Baptismal Call to service by giving 214 hours of service in giving 121 rides. They use their own money for gas.

PARISH BREAKFAST

Our parish Breakfast was held on Sunday, January 10 with 305 people in attendance. There were three winners for a free breakfast; they are:
Andy Souder, Bruce Davis & Sharon Rielli.

The next breakfast is February 14 in our Parish Hall from 7:00 am - 12:30 pm. Save the date!

Also . . . donations of baked goods are needed for our monthly bake sales held at the breakfast. Can you help? If so, call Rita Latshaw at 215.679.7009.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Curious about Children's Liturgy of the Word? CLOW takes place during our 9:30 am Mass. Children ages 5-9 (1st-4th grade) are invited to gather in the center aisle and then are escorted to a meeting room off the Sacristy, to hear and share the Good News in a child friendly environment. Our volunteer staff reads the Word to the children and then they explore its meaning. There is no fee and no registration required for this Program. Please consider encouraging your child to participate in Children's Liturgy of the Word. If you are interested or have questions about this Program, call Wendy Benner at: 215.679.7839.

LITTLE CHURCH

Curious about Little Church? This is a Program that takes place during our 9:30 am Mass. Children ages 3 - Kindergarten are invited to participate. This Program teaches the children about Mass and they participate in a weekly Service where they hear the Good News, explore its meaning and interact with parts of the Service. There is no fee for this Program; however, registration is necessary. Call Wendy Benner if you are interested at 215.679.7839.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

Ash Wednesday is February 10th; Masses are 7:30 AM; 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM in Church.

LENTEN FISH FRY

SPN Parish Hall

EAT-IN OR TAKE-OUT

LUNCH EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT

February 19 - March 25

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Orders taken during Fry Hours: 215.679.8116

DINNERS:

February 19, 26

March 4, 11 & 18

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

ST. PHILIP NERI CHURCH

HOAGIE SALE

CHEESE, HAM, ITALIAN or TURKEY

TUESDAY - March 1

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

COST: \$5.00

Orders due: February 22

Call Rita: 215.679.7009 or

Pat: 215.679.5675



SPN SENIOR CLUB NEWS

The newly elected Officers of the Senior Club are as follows:

- President: Dawn Ellis
- Vice President: Tony Bauer
- Secretary: Denise Walsh
- Treasurer: Lee Johnson

Beginning February 1, 2016, the only way to make a lunch reservation will be to call Rita Latshaw: 215.679.7009.

SPN Catholic Family Life Center

215.679.2237

Registration for the Spring Programs are now open. Be sure to sign up as soon as possible as the Programs begin February 1.

Also, there are still tickets available for the trip to PPL Center to see the Phantom's play Utica on Saturday, February 27. We will leave the CFLC at 5:00 PM. Cost is \$36/adults and \$33/children (12 & under). This includes transportation and tickets. Return is immediately after the game. We are also planning a trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show for Friday, March 11. Departure time from CFLC will be 12 Noon - returning at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$35 for transportation and admission. Make your reservations for these two Events as soon as possible. Space is limited!

For more information, call the CFLC at the number above or check out the website: www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com.

FOOD for FAMILIES



St. Philip Neri Knights of Columbus Father Letterhouse Council 6614 is running a Food Drive on the weekend of March 12/13 and we need your help to stock the shelves at the Open Link's Food Cupboard!

Join in our efforts by donating canned goods and non-perishable food items such as: boxed meals, canned vegetables, juice, soup/stew, canned meats, canned pasta, boxed pasta, canned fruits, cereal and peanut butter. We will also be accepting monetary donations that will go directly to Open Link. Together we can make sure that NO child, adult or senior in the Upper Perkiomen Valley goes hungry.

Collection sites: SPN Church after Masses; in the Parish Hall at the monthly Breakfast; or at the Catholic Family Life Center in East Greenville.

Questions, call Joe Dusko: 215.679.4881 or email to skippyfish@comcast.net.

K.O.C. FREE THROW Contest Winners

January 18, 2016

Girls Winners:

9 Year Old Colleen Gallagher
10 Year Old Avianna Conklin
12 Year Old Mackenzie Wilson
14 Year Old Paige Barnes

Boys Winners:

9 Year Old: Daniel Wertz
10 Year Old: Aidan Keyser
12 Year Old: Blandin Conklin
14 Year Old: Drake Conklin

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Vocation Office for Diocesan Priesthood

Is God calling you to be a priest?
www.HeedTheCall.org.

VATICAN SPLENDORS

The beauty of Vatican City is currently being hosted at the Franklin Institute with the once in a lifetime exhibit, Vatican Splendors. From the sights and sounds of the grand Basilica to a touchable cast of St. John Paul II's hand, embark on a journey through the ages of artistic expression and religious iconography. Many of the items have never been seen outside of Vatican City. The Franklin Institute is offering tickets that are discounted; call 215.448.1200; use promo code ARCHPHL and organize your trip today!

MOM-Heart of the Home Day of Renewal

Registration is OPEN! Calling moms of all ages and types: new moms, seasoned moms, grandmothers, step mothers. Even if you are not a mom, you are still welcome!

Start your Lenten season by replenishing your spirit. Come listen to two amazing, inspirational morning and afternoon speakers...Renee Eells and Kathi Clapham on February 13, 2016 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm at Sts. Simon and Jude Meehan Center in West Chester.

See our registration form for all details at: www.momheartofthehome.org/events.html or call: 484.798.7368.

Women's Weekend Retreat:

Mother Boniface Spirituality Center

WHEN JESUS SPEAKS

February 19 - 21

Jesus speaks with His disciples often in Scripture. Do we, in the 21st Century recognize that He is speaking those same words, asking those same questions, to us? Jesus wants to be an intimate friendship with us - we just need to learn how to listen. On this retreat, we will look at seven questions Jesus asks and explore how to move from those questions to a personal response.

Presenter: Anne Trufant

Fee: \$165* (includes a \$40 non-refundable deposit.

*\$155 reduced rate for those who mail registration/deposit by Feb. 1

Call: 267.350.1830 or 267.350.1835 for more information or to register.

AREA PARISH SCHOOL NEWS

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Church

CYO 2016 Dances: \$7.00/ticket

There will be two dances this school year on the following dates: March 5 and May 7. Call Lynn at: 610.283.5494 or email to lynnearl@comcast.net. Check out the website by going to the CYO Dance Registration for more details.

Come See Us!

Catholic Schools are committed to nurturing the Gospel message of God's love to families valuing their Catholic Faith!

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

THE PLACE TO LEARN

THE PLACE TO PLAY

THE PLACE TO PRAY

THE PLACE TO BE!

Catholic Schools Week is: 1.31.16 - 2.05.16

AREA NEWS

Thank you from Birthright of Pottstown

Dear Birthright supporters, Birthright is most grateful for your generous Christmas donations. We were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity St. Philip Neri showed in the selection of items for our babies. Thank you on behalf of all the new moms and babies who will be enjoying your gifts this year! May God Bless you.

Gratefully,
Carol Bell
co-Director

Thank you from St. Mary's Shelter

Dear Friends, Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your generosity to St. Mary's Shelter during this holiday season. Our shelves have been restocked of all the items we need each day to keep our place in tip top shape. The Gift cards are greatly appreciated for those items that we might not have on hand but are needed at times. They assist our guests while they are here and allow us to give them an extra boost when they move into their apartment. We are all set for another year, due to your generosity. Our house has been quite busy and full in these past months; therefore, all the items you unselfishly gave will assist many people. We hope all of your families have a year full of many blessings and good health.

God Bless!
Kate Garges, residents & Staff of St. Mary's

About Malvern Retreat House - owned and operated by Catholic lay leadership since 1912, it is the oldest and largest Catholic retreat house in the country - hosting 20,000 people annually at 250 retreats on 125 acres. You are invited to come and reflect, refresh and rejoice in your faith.

To find a spiritual retreat that is right for you, call 610.644.0004 or MalvernRetreat.com.

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Calling all Christians!

As Christians, we strive to be attuned to God's calling in our lives. But what if God's calling seems to take us in unexpected and even unwanted directions? Scripture offers many examples of this. Moses initially resists God's invitation. Mary's "yes" is preceded by perplexed astonishment. Jeremiah argues that he just isn't capable of what God has in mind for him. These are understandable reactions, ones we too may have felt in response to situations God seems to be calling us to. Walk with the saints and prophets today, reflecting on and celebrating God's calling in your life.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 12:31-31:4-13; Luke 4:21-30 (72)*. " 'Ah, Lord God!' I said, 'I do not know how to speak. I am too young!'

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Thank you to our spiritual "first responders"

In every society since the beginning of recorded history spiritual experts such as clergy and holy men and women were the go-to healers when someone in the community was troubled and having difficulties coping. Religious men and women continue to play an important role in mental healthcare, typically as first responders. As we close the Year of Consecrated Life, it is good for us to remember the important work of our men and women in religious life who are often active on the margins reaching out to the most vulnerable and helping "cast out the demons" that keep good people from living full, productive lives.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Mark 5:1-20 (323)*. "They caught sight of the man who had been possessed by Legion, sitting there clothed and in his right mind."

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Happy Candlemas!

The Presentation of the Lord, or Candlemas, marks the ritual presentation of Jesus in the Temple 40 days after his birth, as was the Jewish custom. On the day the infant Jesus was presented, Simeon, a devout and just man, couldn't help but declare Christ's glory at the sight of the child. "My eyes have seen your salvation!" Traditionally, Candlemas is marked by a blessing of and procession with candles, an act that signifies the light brought into the world by Christ. Simeon witnessed that light firsthand; today, why not be a walking celebration of Candlemas? Shine Christ's light for the world to see!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 (524)*. "And suddenly there will come to the temple the LORD whom you seek."

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

FEAST OF BLAISE, BISHOP, MARTYR

May your words bring healing

Tradition has it that fourth-century Armenian bishop Blaise once saved the life of a boy who had a fish bone caught in his throat. Thus it came to be that for centuries, and still in many parishes today, Catholics honor this martyred saint by having their throats blessed on his feast day. Perhaps you will have the chance to participate in this age-old ritual today. But if not, you might pause and ask God to protect not only your throat but also your tongue and the words that flow from

it. Ask for the grace to work in tandem with God so that the words you speak will be marked by love and compassion.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17*;
Mark 6:1-6 (325). "What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands!"

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

God heals us in the dark days

The ministry of discipleship is one of healing that is as old as scripture and endures for all time. To that end, the church offers the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to all who are seriously ill or who face major surgery. Those partaking of the sacrament are anointed with oil as they hear the words: "Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit." It is sacramental grace that assures you when you are ill and suffering that the One who suffered for all people will not leave you alone in your own dark time.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12*;
Mark 6:7-13 (326). "They expelled many demons, anointed the sick with oil, and worked many cures."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

FEAST OF AGATHA, VIRGIN, MARTYR

Save our children

The World Health Organization estimates that 150 million girls under the age of 18 have experienced sexual violence. And U.S. studies estimate that one in four girls and one in six boys experience some form of sexual abuse before age 18. Further studies indicate that 93 percent of reported sexual assaults of juveniles in the United States are committed by someone known to the victim. Indifference to these tragic statistics, which the Centers for Disease Control warn have severe health and social consequences, is a sin of the

gravest order. Ask for the intercession of Saint Agatha, patron of rape and torture victims, to spur action among all of us to protect the most vulnerable in our society.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Sirach 47:2-11*;
Mark 6:14-29 (327). "When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb."

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

FEAST OF PAUL MIKI AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

Be happy even in times of trial

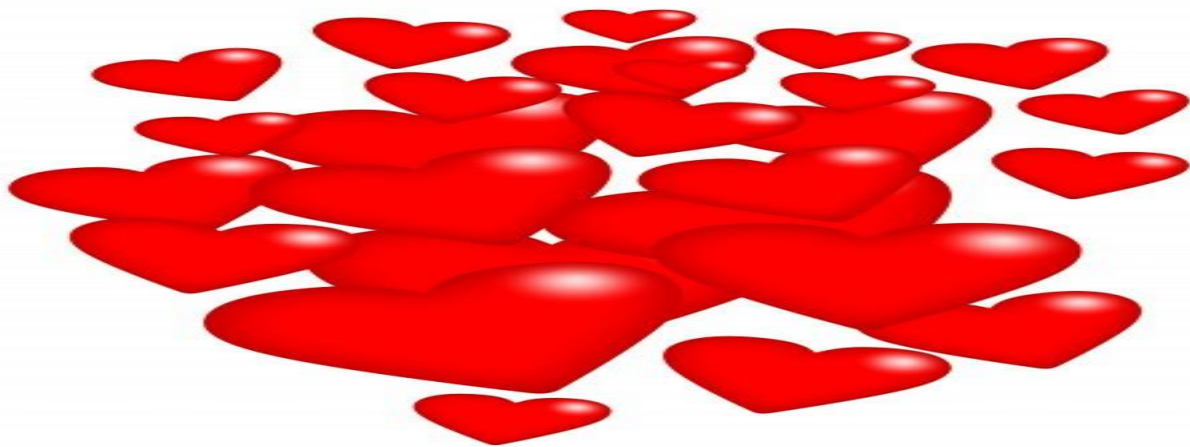
For those who live in a 21st-century democracy, it is difficult to grasp that in some times and places, death has been the punishment for those who preach their Christian faith. Yet the cruelty of martyrdom is part of our history. In late 16th-century Japan, Jesuit brother Paul Miki was crucified along with other Jesuits, Franciscans, and laypeople for sharing the Good News. It is said that from the cross Miki reminded his followers to "ask Christ to help you to become happy." That simple prayer, if asked and answered by each of us, will have a profound effect on our lives.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Kings 3:4-13*;
Mark 6:30-34 (328). "They returned to Jesus and reported all that they had done and what they had taught."

SAVE THE DATE

SPN Senior Club Luncheon
FEBRUARY 24, 2016

11:30 am in the Parish Hall



Come and enjoy a great catered lunch
&
There will be plenty of sweets for the sweet!

To make your reservation, please call
Rita Latshaw at 215-679-7009
The reservation deadline is February 19,
2016

Cost for lunch is \$3.00 per person